New Passport And Immigrant Visa Fees

June 30, 2010

Summary
On July 13, the United States will change a number of passport, immigrant visa and miscellaneous fees. Changes of most interest to American citizens are:

	Current Fee	New Fee
Passport (First time adult, lost/stolen)	$100	$135
Passport Renewal (Adult)	$75	$110
Passport (Child)	$85	$105
Extra Passport Pages	$0	$82
Consular Report of Birth Abroad	$65	$100
Immigrant Visa Application (Family-Based)	$355	$305
Notarial Services	$30 first seal $20 add'l seals	$50 each seal

 Additional fee changes are described at http://www.travel.state.gov/news/news_5078.html.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is the United States changing fees at this time?
We are required by law to recover the cost of most consular services through the collection of fees. The new fees are based on a Cost of Service Study completed in June 2009, conducted by an independent contractor, to establish the true cost of providing various services.

When do the new processing fees go into effect?
The new fees will go into effect on July 13, 2010. All applicants seeking services on or after that date must pay the new fees.

What if I've already paid the fee, but the service has not been completed by July 13th?
In most cases, you will pay the fee in effect on the date you make your application. For example, if you submit an application for a Consular Report of Birth abroad on July 12, but the case will not be adjudicated until July 13 or after, you will only pay the old, $65 fee and will not have to make up the difference between the old and the new fees. Similarly, immigrant visa fees paid to the National Visa Center are those in effect at the time you are billed, not the fee in effect the date of interview or visa issuance.

 What will the increase in passport fees pay for?
In response to dramatic increases in passport demand over the past several years, the Department of State has undertaken a systematic expansion of passport offices, especially in areas most affected by the new requirement for passports to cross the northern and southern land borders. In 2004 we had 13 passport agencies open to the public across the United States and two passport

centers; by the end of 2011, we will have 23 passport agencies and five passport centers. These new facilities have permitted us to provide more timely service to the traveling public, maintain high standards and provide appropriate attention to fraud risks. In addition to the cost of producing passports, passport fees also cover the cost of providing emergency services to American citizens who experience serious problems abroad and organizing the evacuation of American citizens in cases of war or natural disaster in a foreign country.

Why is the Government charging a fee to add passport pages, something previously provided for free?
The cost of service study found that adding visa pages to an existing passport book requires nearly the same resources as producing a new passport book. Please note that frequent travelers can request a 52-page passport book at no additional cost when they renew, potentially saving them from the additional cost of visa pages.

Can I comment on these fees?
The new schedule of fees was published in the Federal Register on June 28, and can be viewed at http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#documentDetail?R=0900006480b0ba64. The public is welcome to submit comments on the fees for 60 days (until August 27, 2010). Methods of submitting comments are described at www.regulations.gov. Later this summer, the Department will review and consider any comments received from the public and consider whether changes should be made.